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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 7 August 1997, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex I

Letter dated 7 August 1997 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the seventh monthly report on Stabilization Force (SFOR) operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

Appendix

Monthly report to the United Nations Security Council on SFOR operations

SFOR operations

1. Approximately 35,000 SFOR troops are currently deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all members of NATO and from 20 non-NATO countries.

2. Over the reporting period (23 June-20 July), there were no significant changes in the overall size and composition of the force. SFOR has continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance by means of ground and air patrols, and to make random inspections of weapons cantonment sites. During the period, approximately 3,500 sorties were flown by combat aircraft, while the SFOR helicopter fleet flew 109 hours.

3. Support continues to be provided to the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), with SFOR maintaining its regular, coordinated training missions over Eastern Slavonia in order to exercise plans to provide close air support if necessary.

4. On 10 July, on the basis of an indictment issued by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague, SFOR forces in the vicinity of Prijedor acted to detain two persons indicted for war crimes. One, Milan Kovacevic, was immediately transferred to representatives of the Tribunal, in accordance with procedures contained in the May 1996 memorandum of understanding between the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) and the Tribunal. The other, Simo Drljaca, fired at the SFOR soldiers as they approached and challenged him for the purpose of detaining him. One SFOR soldier was wounded in the process. Drljaca was killed when fire was returned in self-defence. Immediately after the incident, SFOR took appropriate measures to increase awareness of the security situation and of possible threats to SFOR and other personnel.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

5. Overall, the parties are assessed as being substantially compliant with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. The situation in the theatre remains generally stable, despite increased tensions in the Republika Srpska.

6. The attitude towards SFOR throughout the Republika Srpska in the aftermath of the Prijedor incident has remained generally negative, but thus far has not led to any widespread or significant actions by the general populace. The main reactions to the incident have been non-cooperation and low-level harassment. Between 13 and 20 July, however, 12 hostile acts were directed at international organizations and SFOR troops deployed in the Republika Srpska. In most cases, explosive devices were used, with the purpose of intimidation. Damage was relatively minor, but one SFOR soldier was slightly injured by flying glass.

Newspaper editorials and media comment on the events that led to the death of Drljaca have been hostile and in many cases inaccurate.

7. During the reporting period, SFOR carried out a total of 559 site inspections: 194 combat and infrastructure sites belonging to the Bosniacs; 184 to the Bosnian Croats; 179 to the Bosnian Serbs and 2 to the Federation. As a result of these site inspections, and routine SFOR monitoring of activities in the area, the following weapons were confiscated: from the Bosniacs, 180 rifles and 2 mortars; from the Bosnian Croats, 11 rifles, 2 light machine guns, 2 mortars, 12 rocket launchers, 3 howitzers and 2 M53 anti-aircraft systems; from the Bosnian Serbs, 20 SA7 launchers, 17 long-barrelled weapons and 1 pistol; and from civilians, 3 long-barrelled weapons, 9 pistols and 1 small machine gun. Most of the confiscated weapons have been destroyed, and the rest will be destroyed shortly.

8. SFOR monitored a total of 870 training and movement activities: 347 by the Bosniacs, 244 by the Bosnian Croats, 278 by the Bosnian Serbs and 1 by the Federation.

9. SFOR continues its efforts to facilitate freedom of movement. Implementation of the new SFOR/International Police Task Force (IPTF) checkpoint policy, established in May, has led to a further decrease in the number of illegal checkpoints: over the period, 23 illegal checkpoints were dismantled - 2 Bosniac, 3 Bosnian Croat, 12 Bosnian Serb and 6 unidentified. Republika Srpska police forces have not been supportive of SFOR and IPTF activities, and have accused SFOR of improper weapons confiscation and checkpoint dismantlement, which they claim undermine their policing capabilities. Republika Srpska police continue to use illegal checkpoints on a limited basis. Overall, there has been a marked increase in the movement of people and goods around the country, with a large number of people crossing the Inter-Entity Boundary Line every week for planned visits or events.

10. Demining activity has increased over the summer months, with the Entity Armed Forces, under SFOR supervision, removing 2,260 explosive devices from 249 mined areas. With effect from 30 June, and until 12 August, training has been restricted to platoon size and below for the Bosniac Second Army Corps, the Third Bosnian Serb Army Corps and the Bosnian Croat ORASJE Group as a result of their non-compliance with the countermine campaign.

11. On 27 June, there were two meetings of the Subcommission on the Inter-Entity Boundary Line, between the Federation/Bosniac and Serb delegations and between the Federation/Croat and Serb delegations. The Bosniacs and Serbs discussed exchanges of territory in Western Bosnia, while the Croats and Serbs discussed areas along the Posavina corridor. Progress was made at both meetings. A further meeting of the Subcommission on the Inter-Entity Boundary Line scheduled for 4 July, was postponed until 11 July at the request of the Republika Srpska delegate, but was subsequently cancelled because that delegation decided not to participate. Nonetheless, the Republika Srpska submitted four map proposals for the Inter-Entity Boundary Line corrections in the Doboj pocket and in the Kijuc and Posavina areas. These proposals have been delivered to the other parties.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. Within its capabilities, SFOR continues to offer assistance to the international organizations in theatre. This support is provided both by local forces and by SFOR's Combined Joint Civil-Military Task Force.

13. SFOR continues to support the Joint Election Operation Centre of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and has provided 7 headquarters SFOR staff and 11 Civic-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) staff to the Centre. SFOR is also working with other members of the international community to plan for security operations during the September municipal elections period. An elections response group will be formed shortly, composed of representatives from SFOR, the other international organizations in theatre and the parties, in order to respond to any crisis which might develop. SFOR is also involved in supporting the efforts of the Office of the High Representative to improve access to the media, aiming to create better conditions for free and fair elections. The Information Campaign Radio (Radio MIR) has recently moved location in order to ensure better coverage, particularly into the Eastern part of Republika Srpska, and SFOR is assisting the Office of the High Representative and the OSCE in the establishment, respectively, of the Open Broadcast Network and the Free Elections Radio Network. An SFOR Media Action Working Group has also been established, with the aim of revitalizing the information campaign.

14. SFOR continues to support OSCE in its responsibilities under the Article IV Subregional Arms Control Agreement. Recently, officials representing the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office met with SFOR officials in Sarajevo in order to design a format for use by SFOR when passing cantonment data to OSCE experts in Vienna. This new format, which is already in use, means that the data being passed to OSCE is much more suited to the organization's needs. SFOR also remains ready to transport heavy weapons from cantonments to reduction sites, where they are destroyed under the terms of the Article IV Agreement.

15. SFOR continues to support IPTF through surveillance, communications, transportation and the ability to call for armed reinforcements. SFOR also provides general area support to IPTF.

16. Support continues to be provided to the Office of the High Representative, through the provisions of SFOR technical experts, assistance in telecommunications and engineering, air transportation and through the information campaign. SFOR is working with the Office of the High Representative, OSCE and others in providing balanced access to information through the Bosnian media and expanding coverage by alternative television and radio networks. This support will continue on a routine basis.

17. Over the reporting period, SFOR and the Office of the High Representative held several meetings with the parties on the initiative to open up to civilian traffic the regional airports of Banja Luka, Mostar and Tuzla. SFOR and the Office of the High Representative have held consultations with the Parties to try and resolve outstanding issues and work will continue.

18. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in the establishment of a fully functioning Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM). SCMM has still to agree its rules of procedure, a revised version of which has been issued by the Office of the High Representative. The Joint Presidency has addressed the issue on several occasions without reaching final agreement, although outstanding issues have now been narrowed down to membership and chairmanship.

19. SFOR provides direct liaison to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on a permanent basis as a member of the International Housing Commission, chaired by UNHCR. Local SFOR forces contribute substantially towards facilitating refugee returns through information gathering, coordination with UNHCR and other organizations, negotiations with local authorities and close monitoring of the situation on the ground.

20. SFOR is currently providing assistance in over 250 civil projects ranging in cost from DM 500 to over DM 1 million. Notable projects include: the management of the Brcko-Tuzla rail project; support to the telecommunications emergency reconstruction plan and the disposal of expired drugs for the World Health Organization.

21. On 12 July, the Combined Joint CIMIC Task Force hosted a working group meeting to design a strategy for prioritizing and accelerating small projects throughout the theatre, the main objective being to prioritize, track and coordinate a system to identify funding sources and then to link them up with CIMIC project coordinators in the Multi-National Divisions. Priority will be given to those projects which provide the most incentive to economic, social and political stability at the municipal level.

22. SFOR also provides a liaison team to the World Bank. Senior liaison officers will meet later in August to discuss the allocation and administration of the funds pledged by the Government of Japan for economic recovery in the Republika Srpska.

23. Several international organizations have had to curtail travel in selected areas of the Republika Srpska as a result of the unrest there. As noted above, there have also been isolated acts of harassment or violence, with the result that CIMIC Task Force liaison teams have received numerous requests from the other international organizations in theatre to review internal security and employee safety policies and plans. The Task Force expects additional such requests from OSCE, the Office of the High Representative and UNHCR as the municipal elections approach.

24. A first specially conducted NATO course on international security for Bosnian military and defence officials was held at the NATO school in Oberammergau, Germany, from 23 June to 4 July. Military and defence officials representing both entities and the three ethnic groups in the country participated. Approximately half of the course was devoted to the challenges of the peace consolidation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the speakers included Ambassador Eide, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative in Bosnia, as well as UNHCR officials. The course fully realized

the overall objective of contributing to the process of reconciliation, and it is intended to conduct further such courses in December 1997 and January 1998.

Outlook

25. The overall situation in the theatre is expected to remain stable, despite continuing increased tension in the Republika Srpska. SFOR will continue to carry out its mission firmly but fairly, without tolerating any recourse to force or violence, or the unauthorized deployment of military or paramilitary forces. Temporary force adjustments within each Multi-National Division for the election period are expected to be made in mid-August.

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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 661 (1990) CONCERNING THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith for the attention of the members of the Council the report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait pursuant to paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines to facilitate full international implementation of paragraphs 24, 25 and 27 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

The report was approved by the Committee on 12 August 1997.

(Signed) António MONTEIRO
Chairman
Security Council Committee
established by resolution 661 (1990)
concerning the situation between
Iraq and Kuwait

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Annex

Report of the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait pursuant to paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines to facilitate full international implementation of paragraphs 24, 25 and 27 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

1. The present report is submitted by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, in accordance with paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines to facilitate full international implementation of paragraphs 24, 25 and 27 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991 approved by the Security Council in its resolution 700 (1991) of 17 June 1991 (S/22660, annex).

2. Under paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines, the Committee is required to report at 90-day intervals to the Security Council on the implementation of the arms and related sanctions against Iraq contained in the relevant resolutions of the Council. The present report is the twenty-fifth report submitted under the above-mentioned guidelines. The preceding reports were submitted on 13 September (S/23036) and 10 December 1991 (S/23279), 12 March (S/23708), 11 June (S/24083), 8 September (S/24545) and 4 December 1992 (S/24912), 19 March (S/25442), 7 June (S/25930), 7 September (S/26430) and 14 December 1993 (S/26874), 4 March (S/1994/274), 6 June (S/1994/695), 2 September (S/1994/1027) and 29 November 1994 (S/1994/1367), 1 March (S/1995/169), 30 May (S/1995/442), 25 August (S/1995/744) and 27 November 1995 (S/1995/992), 21 February (S/1996/127), 20 May (S/1996/361), 20 August (S/1996/676) and 18 November 1996 (S/1996/950) and 14 February (S/1997/141 and 16 May 1997 (S/1997/374).

3. By paragraph 12 of the guidelines, all States are requested to report to the Committee any information that may have come to their attention relating to possible violations of the arms and related sanctions against Iraq committed by other States or foreign nationals. During the period under review, no information as requested has been brought to the attention of the Committee.

4. In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 15 of the guidelines, all States and international organizations are required to consult the Committee on the question of whether certain items fall within the provisions of paragraph 24 of resolution 687 (1991), as well as in cases relating to dual-use or multiple-use items, that is, items meant for civilian use but with potential for diversion or conversion to military use. During the period covered by the report, no States or international organizations have consulted the Committee on these questions.

5. By paragraph 14 of the guidelines, international organizations are requested to take all appropriate steps to assist in ensuring full compliance with the arms and related sanctions against Iraq, including providing to the Committee any relevant information that may come to their attention. During the period under review, no information as requested by paragraph 14 of the guidelines has been received by the Committee.

6. The Committee will continue its efforts to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it. Since the last report of the Secretary-General, dated 4 December 1991 (S/22884/Add.2), no further communications have been received from Member States pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 700 (1991).